(ख) इस संबंध में सच्चाई क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या भारत का इस संबंध में विश्व व्यापार संगठन से कोई शिकायत करने का विचार है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Plan to Encourage Business Opportunities in Central Asia

2189. SHRI GOVIND RAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report in the Times of India dated the 19th July, 1997 under the caption opportunities in Central Asia";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of strategies and action plan worked out for encouraging investment in industry and business opportunities in Central Asia for developing strong economic cooperation and bilateral relationship with Central Asian countries; and

(d) the present status of the plan worked out for 1997-98 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India attaches great importance to trade and economic cooperation with the Central Asian Republics (CARs).

(c) and (d) The Government of India has signed Trade Agreements with all the five Central Asian Republics to provide an institutional framework for encouraging trade and economic cooperation. A trilateral Agreement on Transit Trade has also been signed between India, Iran and Turkmenstan to facilitate India's trade with the CARs. The mechanism of Inter-Goervnmental Commission is being operationalised to provide a bilateral forum for dscussion on matters of mutual interest including trade and investment issues. The Government of India has approved setting up of a India Business Centre at Tashkent to facilitate India's trade and investment in the region. The Apex Chambers are being encouraged to set up Joint Business Councils with their counter-parts in the CARs.

A delegation from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India and Indian Airlines visited Central Asia in April 1997 with the objective of strengthening air links with the region. A Banking Delegation from India visited Uzbekistan in February 1997. RBI has already accordede "in-principle" approval for opening a representative office of Punjab National Bank in Kazakhstan. ONGC Videsh Ltd. has ventured into oil exploration sector in Pavlodar Region in Kazakhstan.

The Government of India has provided Lines of Credit to CARs to encurage bilateral trade. The details showing credit line sanctioned cumulative disbursement by Government of India to CARs is as under :—

S.No.	Countries	Sanctioned Credit Lines (in US $/Mn	Cumulative Disbursement(In Rs/crore)
1	Uzbekistan	20	33.06
2	Kazakhstan	20	10.76
3	Turkmenistan	15	15.68
4	Tajikistan	5	16.02
5	Kyrghstan	5	Nil